
REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on August 3, 2007.

Claims 1-13 and 15-17 are amended, claims 25-33 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

Title

The title of the application is objected to as not being descriptive. The Office Action suggests a title, however Applicant has chosen a title that is more in line with the scope of the claims. This title is “USER AND GROUP ACTIVITY EXCLUSION VIA OBJECT CLASS DEFINITION TAILORING.” Acceptance of this title and withdrawal of the title objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-13 and 15-16 were objected to “because the phrase ‘one or more data processing apparatus’ is incorrect. ‘Apparatus’ should be plural.” Although “apparatus” is acceptable as both a singular and plural form of the word, as can be seen in several dictionaries including the online dictionary available at www.dictionary.com, Applicant has chosen to amend claims 1-13 and 15-16 as requested in the Office Action. The plural form “Apparatuses,” which is another acceptable plural form, replaces “apparatus” in each of these claims. This amendment is not intended to modify the scope of the claims as “apparatus” and “apparatuses” are both acceptable plural forms of the same word. Withdrawal of this objection to claims 1-13 and 15-16 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 was objected because “the phrase ‘data processing apparatus receive user input’ in incorrect.” The Office Action suggests that this recited phrase should read “data processing apparatus to receive user input.” Applicant has made the suggested amendment to insert the word “to.” Withdrawal of the objection to claim 7 is respectfully requested.

§101 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-14 and 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is asserted as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With regard to claims 17-24, the Office Action does not provide any explanation as to how or why the claims may be directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant assumes the inclusion of claims 17-24 in the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections is a typographical error carried forward from the previous action. If this is not a typographical error and claims 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicant requests issuance of a further non-final Office Action to properly allow Applicant a full opportunity to respond to the rejection.

With regard to claims 1-14, the Office Action refers to the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 27 as evidence that the computer program product includes carrier waves, which are asserted to be non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended the cited paragraph of the application beginning at page 17, line 27 to remove the language “or in a propagated signal.” Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment to the specification plus the fact that independent claim 1, from which claims 2-14 directly or indirectly depend, provides that the computer program product is “tangibly embodied in one or more information carriers” clarifies that the claim is intended only to encapsulate statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of claims 1-14 is respectfully requested.

With regard to claims 25-33, Applicant has chosen to withdraw the claims from consideration at this time in the interest of moving prosecution of the present application forward in a timely manner. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 25-33 in a continuing or divisional application at a later time.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention because

the Office Action asserts the limitation “changing a status” is incomprehensible as written. However, the Office Action further asserts, “The specification mentions excluding a user from performing a data processing activity that involves the respective fields, see the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 22, but not a user who is excluded from involving a field in an activity.” Applicant is therefore confused as to the true nature of this rejection because, although the rejection is made under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the asserted reasoning for the rejection is more in line with a lack of enablement rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claim 17 to clarify the claim. However, if the rejection is maintained, Applicant requests issuance of a further non-final Office Action including a clarified rejection to properly afford Applicant an opportunity to respond to the rejection.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by Keinsley et al. (U.S. 2003/0154403; hereinafter “Keinsley”).

With regard to independent claims 1 and 17, the Office Action asserts that FIG. 15A and FIG. 15B and various citations to the description of Keinsley provide teachings of the various claim elements. Applicant traverses these assertions and respectfully submits that Keinsley fails to teach or suggest all the elements of independent claims 1 and 17.

Applicant respectfully submits that when viewed properly, claims 1 and 17 include receiving input defining what data items may be included in a defined object rather than the values stored in the data items as described by Keinsley.

For example, Keinsley describes a stand-alone security system controlling access to secured information and self-service functionality for a sponsor organization. *See* Keinsley Abstract and paragraph [0017]. Access control, as described, is maintaining records of access rights and communication of this information where needed. *See* Keinsley paragraph [0020]. The user interfaces of FIG. 15A and 15B cited in the Office Action are used by an administrator to display and receive such access control record data. *See* Keinsley paragraph [0570]. Such access control records are consumed for individual authentication verification that the individual

is allowed access. *See Keinsley paragraph [0028].* Thus, the cited user interfaces are operable to receive and display values of access control data, such as data defining a suspense period of data access.

In contrast, independent claim 1 includes receiving user input for tailoring an object class definition. The user input identifies a first field to be included in the tailored object class definition and a second field to be included in the tailored object class definition. This input defines what data items to include in an object class definition, which is in contrast to the values of access control data of Keinsley.

Similarly in claim 17, a data storage device includes tailored object class definitions having user-defined data fields. These data-fields, being user-defined, define data in the tailored data object class definitions which is also in contrast to the values of access control data of Keinsley. Keinsley merely provides data values and not definitions of what the data may be.

With regard to the “VB6 COM DLL” described in paragraph [0701] of Keinsley and cited in the Office Action, the VB6 COM DLL merely exposed a single class containing methods to allow business functions to access data associated with the sponsor organizations secured logon application. The VB6 COM DLL, as described, does not include, nor is it adapted to receive, tailored data object class definitions. Instead, the VB6 COM DLL seems to merely expose methods that may be used to authenticate user identities. Applicant is unable to locate any mention in Keinsley with regard to the VB6 COM DLL, or elsewhere, of tailored data object class definitions. Tailored data object class definitions, as discussed above, and set forth in the claims, include user-defined data fields.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over Keinsley because Keinsley fails to teach or suggest receiving user input identifying either a first or second field to be included in a tailored object class definition as claimed. Applicant further submits that independent claim 17 is patentable over Keinsley because Keinsley merely describes data values and not what the data may be.

Claims 2-16 and 18-24 depend, directly or indirectly from patentable independent claims 1 and 17, respectively, and are equally patentable.

Claims 25-33 are withdrawn from consideration in the interest of moving prosecution of the present application forward in a timely manner. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 25-33 in a continuing or divisional application at a later time.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney 408-278-4042 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicant's silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 10th, day of October 2007.

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